



CLEAN WATER ACTION ALLIANCE

15 October 2001

Carol Hanlon, DOE
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office (M/S #025)
P.O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-0307

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Dear Ms. Hanlon:

Clean Water Action Alliance of Minnesota (CWAA) is a citizen-based environmental organization with over 55,000 members throughout Minnesota. CWAA works for the transition away from coal and nuclear generation towards cleaner, non-polluting sources of energy.

CWAA harbors serious concerns over the Yucca Mountain Project. Serious flaws in the process have pushed for approval in the face of public opposition and scientific uncertainty about the suitability of the site. The Secretary of Energy should not be preparing to recommend Yucca Mountain for a high-level nuclear waste dump when thousands of public comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement still have not been addressed. The Department of Energy must have a Final Environmental Impact Statement, a detailed transportation scenario, finalized Siting Guidelines, or a licensing rule before determining the suitability of the site. The public will not have confidence in a recommendation derived from a flawed process.

CWAA is very concerned about the lack of opportunity for public input on this process. Millions of Americans will have high level radioactive waste shipped through their communities if the Yucca Mountain Project is approved. Since Minnesota has two nuclear power plants operated by Xcel Energy, Minnesota citizens would be seriously affected by the approval of the Yucca Mountain site. Tons of radioactive waste would have to be shipped through our metropolitan areas exposing millions to the risk of negligence, accident or sabotage. Sadly, due to the recent disasters we can no longer easily dismiss the risk of sabotage. The public needs more than a few hearings and this comment period to voice their concerns. We recommend that DOE end its support of the Yucca Mountain Project.

Sincerely,

Diana S. McKeown
Energy Program Coordinator

Cc: Senator Paul Wellstone, Senator Mark Dayton